

Claims:

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for agent-based monitoring of network devices in an enterprise network, comprising:

selecting one of the network devices from the enterprise network, each network device associated with one of a plurality of device classes;

selecting one of a plurality of agent templates based on the associated device class of the selected network device, the agent template comprising a class definition; and

instantiating an agent object based on the class definition ~~agent template~~, the agent object operable to monitor hardware characteristics of the network device.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, the network device associated with at least one Management Information Base (MIB) parameter.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, the agent object monitoring the network device based on the one or more MIB parameters.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein monitoring comprises retrieving information associated with at least a portion of the hardware characteristics of the network device.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, each hardware characteristic of the network device selected from the group consisting of:

- memory usage;
- chassis temperature;
- Central Processing Unit (CPU) usage;
- fan status;
- module status; and
- power supply status.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising comparing at least one of the hardware characteristics to an associated threshold value.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, further comprising automatically communicating an alert in response to the hardware characteristic violating the associated threshold value.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, the agent object comprising a parent object and at least one child object, the parent object associated with the network device and each child associated with one of the hardware characteristics.

9. (Currently Amended) Software comprising executable instructions stored on a machine-readable medium ~~Software for agent-based monitoring of network devices in an enterprise network~~, the software operable to:

select one of the network devices from the enterprise network, each network device associated with one of a plurality of device classes;

select one of a plurality of agent templates based on the associated device class of the selected network device, the agent template comprising a class definition; and

instantiate an agent object based on the class definition ~~agent template~~, the agent object operable to monitor hardware characteristics of the network device.

10. (Original) The software of Claim 9, the network device associated with at least one MIB parameter.

11. (Original) The software of Claim 10, the agent object monitoring the network device based on the one or more MIB parameters.

12. (Currently Amended) The software of Claim 9, wherein the agent object monitoring hardware characteristics comprises the software operable to retrieve information associated with at least a portion of the hardware characteristics of the network device.

13. (Original) The software of Claim 9, each hardware characteristic of the network device selected from the group consisting of:

memory usage;

chassis temperature;

Central Processing Unit (CPU) usage;

fan status;

module status; and

power supply status.

14. (Original) The software of Claim 9, further operable to compare at least one of the hardware characteristics to an associated threshold value.

15. (Original) The software of Claim 14, further operable to automatically communicate an alert in response to the at least one of the hardware characteristics violating the associated threshold value.

16. (Original) The software of Claim 9, the agent object comprising a parent object and at least one child object, the parent object associated with the network device and each child associated with one of the hardware characteristics.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for agent-based monitoring of network devices in an enterprise network, comprising:

memory operable to store information associated with a plurality of network devices in the enterprise network; and

one or more processors collectively operable to:

select one of the network devices from the enterprise network, each network device associated with one of a plurality of device classes;

select one of a plurality of agent templates based on the associated device class of the selected network device, the agent template comprising a class definition; and

instantiate an agent object based on the class definition ~~agent template~~, the agent object operable to monitor hardware characteristics of the network device.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 17, the network device associated with at least one MIB parameter.

19. (Original) The system of Claim 18, the agent object monitoring the network device based on the one or more MIB parameters.

20. (Original) The system of Claim 17, wherein the agent object monitoring comprises processors operable to retrieve information associated with at least a portion of the hardware characteristics of the network device.

21. (Original) The system of Claim 17, each hardware characteristic of the network device selected from the group consisting of:

memory usage;

chassis temperature;

Central Processing Unit (CPU) usage;

fan status;

module status; and

power supply status.

22. (Original) The system of Claim 17, the one or more processors further operable to compare at least one of the hardware characteristics to an associated threshold value.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 22, the one or more processors further operable to automatically communicate an alert in response to the at least one of the hardware characteristics violating the associated threshold value.

24. (Original) The system of Claim 17, the agent object comprising a parent object and at least one child object, the parent object associated with the network device and each child associated with one of the hardware characteristics.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for agent-based monitoring of switches in an enterprise network, comprising:

selecting one of the switches from the enterprise network, each switch associated with one of a plurality of device classes;

selecting one of a plurality of agent templates based on the associated device class of the selected switch, the agent template comprising a class definition; and

instantiating an agent object based on the class definition ~~agent template~~, the agent object operable to monitor hardware characteristics of the selected switch;

comparing at least one of the hardware characteristics to an associated threshold value; and

automatically communicating an alert in response to the at least one of the hardware characteristics violating the associated threshold value.

26. (Previously Presented) The software of Claim 9, the device class comprising one of:

a device type;

a device vendor;

a hardware characteristic;

a model number; or

a product line.

27. (Previously Presented) The software of Claim 9, the software further operable to: transmit using Simple Management Network Protocol (SNMP) a request for a Management Information Base (MIB) object from the selected network device, wherein the MIB object identifies a type of the network device; and

identify a class table containing the plurality of agent templates, wherein the one of the plurality of agent templates is selected from the class table using the type of the network device.